

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 8 (e)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

9 NOVEMBER 2015

HEALTH SCRUTINY – UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview & Scrutiny Board with an update on the Health Scrutiny function.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Board notes the progress of the Health Scrutiny function.

CONSIDERATION

Health Scrutiny Panel

3. The panel met on 15 October to consider further evidence on the topic of improving levels of breastfeeding in Middlesbrough. The meeting focussed on the strategic oversight, key issues and statistics. Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland had seen no change in breastfeeding initiation rates from 2006 to 2015, whereas their statistical neighbours had seen improvements ranging from a 6% rise in Darlington to 18 and 19% rises in Sunderland and Blackpool respectively.
4. The panel heard that breastfeeding was not only beneficial to the mother and child but would save admissions for a number of childhood conditions and thus saving the NHS money.
5. The panel learnt that in order to improve Middlesbrough's rates to match the national average it would require 500 additional infants to be breastfed, or 10 per week.

6. At the time of writing the panel's next meeting will be on 3 November to receive further evidence on the topic from Teesside University and the South Tees Infant Nutrition Team.

South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

7. The committee met on 13 October to discuss the temporary changes to the breast radiology services at the James Cook University Hospital (JCUH). The South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust's breast radiology diagnostic service has temporarily closed due to the shortage of specialist clinical staff. Patients are being accommodated at the University Hospital North Tees for the diagnostic service and they will continue to receive any further follow-up treatment at James Cook University Hospital.
8. In response to the information received the panel are holding a dedicated meeting on the 27 November to discuss the issue further with clinicians and the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
9. Members also received an update on the CCG's review of Urgent Care. The committee were updated on the case for change, the improvements that are anticipated to the 111 services, and the findings of the consultation that had been carried out. Further information on the proposed options will be submitted to the Committee's next meeting on 17 November.
10. Members also received an update on the position with the Life Store. A decision is to be made by the South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group in November as to what options they wish to pursue, which will be presented to the Committee for comment.

**Councillor Eddie Dryden
Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. No background papers were used to prepare this briefing paper.

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